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Letter dated 2 December 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the note verbale, dated 24 October 2009, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the Embassy of Switzerland (Interests Section of the United States of America) in Tehran, concerning the unlawful attack by the United States Navy in the Persian Gulf against an Iranian fishing boat, which caused it to sink (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammad **Khazaeei**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 2 December 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Embassy of Switzerland to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Interests Section of the United States of America, and has the honour to state the following.

The competent authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran report that on 23 Shahrivar 1388 (15 September A.D. 2009), two United States vessels with crews totalling around 20 individuals attacked a fishing vessel sailing under the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The incident took place at longitude 27° 16' N, latitude 51° 36' E, within the exclusive economic zone of the Islamic Republic of Iran. After illegally searching and fingerprinting the crew of the vessel, the United States crew opened fire on its fuel tank, causing the vessel to catch fire and sink. The crews of the United States vessels belonged to the destroyer USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly protests this illegal action on the part of United States forces, and requests an explanation of the reasons for the action and compensation for the losses incurred by the owner of the Iranian fishing vessel. The Government of the United States of America is plainly responsible for any threat to security in the Persian Gulf and any disruption affecting the security of maritime traffic that may arise as a result of such illegal actions.